

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 22, 2013

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Attendees at the 15th Annual Celebration Benefiting the Children's Inn at National Institute of Health (NIH) Hosted by AFCEA Bethesda Chapter on March 23, 2013

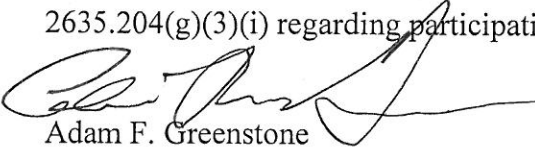
On March 23, 2013, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association International (AFCEA) Bethesda Chapter, a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host its 15th Annual Celebration Benefiting the Children's Inn at National Institute of Health (NIH), at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., at 6 PM. The purpose of this event is to support the Children's Inn at NIH, a facility that houses families while a child receives experimental treatment for rare life-threatening illnesses and diseases being studied at NIH.

Approximately 1000 people are expected to attend, including individuals from Federal agencies, IT professionals, state and local governments, and members of the public. Ticket prices for the event are \$600 per person, though the actual value of food and beverages served is approximately \$130. Attendance at this event will allow NASA employees an opportunity to discuss with other guests NASA's missions and programs. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g).

The AFCEA Bethesda Chapter fosters networking events to increase collaboration and dialog between various types of government IT organizations about significant issues and challenges affection their communities. I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations by facilitating the exchange of professional information on information technology issues between NASA employees and representatives of other organizations. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest from AFCEA and or the Children's Inn for free attendance to the event. *Invitations from organizations other than the AFCEA and/or the Children's Inn may not be accepted.*

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §

2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.



Adam F. Greenstone